1. **Weir Farm National Historic Site**
   Become a Junior Ranger! Hike to Weir Pond, explore the secret garden or pretend to be a local artist and create your own masterpiece!

2. **Housatonic Meadows State Park**
   Go fly fishing in the Housatonic River, canoe downriver and brave the moderately challenging rapids! Hike the Pine Knob Loop Trail and reach Pine Knob Summit, even stay the night!

3. **Talcott Mountain State Park**
   Hike the Tower Trail for great views, visit the Heublein Tower for a picnic spot or try your luck at bird watching.

4. **Dinosaur State Park**
   See close to 600 dinosaur tracks left from 200 million years ago! Learn about the geological history of the world. Hike a nature trail through swamps, woodlands and meadows.

5. **Sleeping Giant**
   Cross country ski in the wintertime. Climb the Tower Path up the Giant’s arm toward the tower built on his left hip. Be sure to have a picnic here!

6. **Hammonasset Beach State Park**
   Go for a bike ride, swim in the ocean, have a picnic! Go fishing or hike around to see the local wildlife. Check out the Meigs Point Nature Center before you go!

7. **Gillette Castle State Park**
   Explore historic Gillette Castle and learn about its geology! Hike outside, camp by the river, or have a nice picnic.

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**Fact Bites!**

- The first telephone book was published by The New Haven District Telephone company in February 1878. It contained only fifty names.
- The Scoville Memorial Library is the United States’ oldest public library.
- New Haven had the first lollipop-making machine. The candy is named for a popular racehorse.
- Connecticut is home to the first hamburger, Polaroid camera, helicopter, and color television.
- In colonial New Haven, cut pumpkins were used as guides for haircuts. These New Englanders were nicknamed “pumpkin-heads.”

*Photos Courtesy of National Park Service*